

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the following paragraph:

[017] Fig. 1B is a drawing of mail containing a common carrier indicia and Royal Mail postal indicia. This type of mail is used for mail that is deposited with a common carrier in the United States and delivered to the recipient by the Royal Mail in the United Kingdom. Mail 41 may be a letter, flat, or package, etc. Mail 41 has a recipient address field 42, a sender address field 43, carrier indicia 44, carrier bar code 45, Royal Mail postal indicia 46 and unique number 50. Royal Mail postal indicia 46, includes bar code 47, meter number 1848, the price of United Kingdom postage 49, and unique number 50.

Please replace the following paragraph:

[018] Fig. 1C is a drawing of mail containing a common carrier indicia and Royal Mail postal indicia. This type of mail is used for mail that is deposited with Royal Mail in the United Kingdom and delivered to the recipient by a carrier in the United States. Mail 51 may be a letter, flat, or package, etc. Mail 51 has a recipient address field 52, a sender address field 53, carrier indicia 54, carrier bar code 5545, Royal Mail postal indicia 56 and unique number 60. Royal Mail postal indicia 56 includes bar code 57, meter number 8858, the price of United Kingdom postage 59, and unique number 60

Please replace the following paragraph:

[019] Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the process of metering international mail so that terminal dues will be paid. Electronic postage meter 130 or personal computer meter 131 may be used to print indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31 and unique number 18 (Fig. 1). During a communication between postage meter 130 or personal computer meter 131 with data center 132, it will be indicated that meter 130 or meter 131 printed indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31 and unique number 18.

Meters 130 and/or 131 will also transmit all of the information contained in ~~indicators~~ indicia_20 and 40-barcode_30 (Fig.1A) to data center 132. Data center 132 will transmit the information contained in indicia 20 and 31, bar codes 30 and 31 and unique number 18 to mail records controller 133. The operation of meters 130 and 131 will be described in the description of Fig. 3. Mail records controller 133 will transmit the information it receives from data center 132 to data base 102, where a record is created specifically referenced to the issued unique number 18 for a particular meter 130 or 131 account number. The record is a proof of validity of postal indicia 20 and 31 having an issued unique number 18 for a particular meter, and the proof is provided when data base 102 is consulted.